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SCORES FAILINGS, SUGGESTS IMPROVEMENTS
IN SOVIET CHEMICAL ENTERPRISES

DISCUSSES INEFFICIENT USE OF MACHINES -- Tallin, Sovetskaya Estoniya, 18 May 51

Rejects and inefficiency mark the operation of the Il'marin Plant which is subordinate to the Ministry of Local and Shale-Chemical Industry, Estonian SSR. Even the plant management does not know what the enterprise will produce from month to month. The ministry plans the output of its own plant only in monetary terms. Generally it furnishes the plant with only 10-15 percent of its orders. The plant itself must seek the remaining work for the fulfillment of the plan. This puts the work in a feverish state, and causes frequent stoppages of individual workers and whole shops. As a result, the plant is in a difficult financial position. Since it has no notion of what its output will be, it submits annual requirements for materials which do not correspond to its output. This year a great deal of metal is lying in the warehouse. However, when the plant began to make plowshares, the necessary material was not in the plant. The ministry's Main Administration of Supply and Sales refused to supply the metal, and the plant had to buy defective tires from the Tallin Locomotive and Railroad Car Repair Plant imeni M. I. Kalinin. Making these tires into plowshares complicated the production process and required excess time and means.

The absence of a plan causes a large proportion of the first class domestic machine tools and machines with which the plant shops are equipped to stand idle. The boiler shop operates at only 30-percent capacity. The machine shop works only one and a half shifts. Such machine tools as the DIP-200, received from the Krasny Proletariy Plant, as well as drilling machines, planing machines, and other machine tools are idle for hours and even days.

Of all the equipment in the forging shop, only the hammers are in full time operation. The powerful hydraulic press is not used at all, and frictional and eccentric presses work only half time.

The casting shop operates at greater capacity than any of the other shops in the plant. However, without increasing its production area or facilities, it could increase its output by half.

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The lack of a regular type-designation plan has a disadvantageous effect on the quality of the output. A habit has developed of filling the orders of clients as quickly as possible and looking for new ones. No attention is paid to qualitative indexes. Kyao, the plant director, and the party and trade-union organizations are to blame for this. Mass political work is at a low level in the shops; meetings are rare. Socialist competition has a formal character. There are no Stakhanovite schools and technical training is haphazard.

The introduction of innovations is also of a formal character. There is no concern for the improvement of the manufactured product. As a result, re-jects increase from month to month, particularly in the foundry, and no effective measures have been taken to improve the quality of the products.

No technological discipline is observed in the foundry. Many production processes are carried out by outdated methods. The shop lacks instruments for checking metal temperatures and for controlling the drying of the molds. The most important operations are executed by rule of thumb. All of these factors have resulted in faulty castings.

The absence of technical supervision in the foundry also explains the low quality. There is no technologist or foreman in the shop. Brigade leaders do not head the cleaning and pattern sections. The plant Technical Department, headed by Myaots, is a feeble aid to the shop. It sends all orders to the shop without technical documentation. The department works out no annual system and does not keep an account of profits.

The ministry is to blame for the rejects. It does not control its own enterprise, nor does it provide the plant with the means for even elementary mechanization. For more than 2 years there has been talk about a mechanical crane in the foundry and about installing a machine for the crushing of pig-iron ingots, but as yet nothing has been done. This increases rejects. Without a plan, the plant is entering an increasingly difficult situation. The equipment stands idle and trained personnel are not properly utilized. All this is known to the Ministry of Local and Shale-Chemical Industry, which persists in regarding the power-ful plant as its "repair shop," as if its mission were to do repair work for the shale enterprises.

CALLS FOR TECHNOLOGICAL IMPROVEMENTS IN OVERSHOE SHOP -- Riga, Sovetskaya Latvija,
6 June 51

Despite the fact that the Riga Meteor Rubber Products Plant exceeded its first-quarter plan and fulfilled its April plan, and despite the claims of the plant administration as to the high quality of its rubber footwear, at the Riga base of Glavlegsbyt (Main Administration of Light Industry Sales) alone it paid more than 70,000 rubles in fines for supplying inferior output, chiefly leather shoes with rubber soles. Customers complained that overshoes became unglued and wore out quickly. The plant has willingly exchanged defective products for new ones, but the latter have turned out to be equally defective.

The overshoe lasts are out of date. The resolution of this problem rests with Chabis, Minister of Light Industry Latvian SSR. Because of the lack of rolling and pressing machines, soles are rolled by hand, and are not glued firmly enough. The plant managers fail to supervise the technological process properly. Work proceeds simultaneously on aluminum and cast-iron lasts. Despite the fact that each type of last requires particular conditions for vulcanization, a specific temperature and a certain type of rubber composition, the aluminum and cast-iron lasts go on the conveyor alternately. This has a negative effect on the quality of output. The preparations shops are not provided with materials because of poor supply, and the technological cycle is disrupted. Contrary to all rules, the hot rubber coming from the rolling is immediately laid out for cutting in the overshoe shop.

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There is no Department of Technical Control at the plant to analyze the reasons for defective output. Neither is any technical training given in the overshoe shop. The party and trade-union organizations have not been active enough. Competition is badly organized in the shop. It is impossible to learn the obligations undertaken, and how they are being fulfilled. Only over-all figures are given for the results of the work, while the names of those producing defective goods and the Stakhanovites are not revealed. -- I. Podgornyy

REVEALS FAILINGS OF CELLULOSE-PAPER COMBINE --- Petrozavodsk, Leninskoye Znamya,
10 Jun 51

The Segezha Cellulose-Paper Combine has not fulfilled its plan for many months. In 1950, it met 96 percent of its gross production plan, and only 90 percent in the first quarter of 1951. The monthly plan was exceeded in April, but production declined again in May. An investigation of the plant has revealed many inadequacies.

The combine is eliminating the divergence in shop capacities very slowly. For example, the evaporating aggregates have not been providing the digester shop with lyes for a long time, so that the digesters cannot do the necessary work. Although the problem was solved a long time ago, the powerful evaporating equipment has been installed very slowly. Although it was put into service in May, because of lack of steam, a shortage of lyes persists. A new steam boiler is needed.

Another problem is the dampness of the sulfate, since the chemicals are stored outdoors.

The work in the timber yard is not organized satisfactorily. Raw materials are supplied to the wood-pulp shop irregularly. Chipping machines stand idle. The wood chips for the digesters arrive at uneven intervals. On 24, 27, and 28 May, the output of cellulose by the digester shop was short 50 tons because of the lack of wood chips, for which the timber yard was responsible. Such days were frequent in May.

The supply of cellulose from the digester shop is uneven. The paper-making machines often stop for lack of pulp, electric power, and steam.

Two years ago, Stakhanovites in the paper factory urgently requested knot screens to prevent knots or undigested pulp from coming on to the screen of the paper machines. They also asked for calenders so that the paper produced would be of excellent quality. At that time, socialist competition for high-quality output was widely developed, and people tried to get paper with the factory trade-mark. The situation has changed. Knot screens and calenders have not been installed. A great many knots come on to the screens of the paper machines.

Lack of cleanliness, and improper ventilation and lighting prevail.

The role of the foremen and brigade leaders is undeservingly disparaged. Shift changes in many shops are merely a formality. No one teaches the foremen and brigade leaders, particularly the younger ones. Therefore some of them do not supervise their workers properly or guide the production of their shifts. In the majority of shops there are no production conferences at which the young foremen and brigade leaders can learn. In the digester shop conferences no fundamental questions involving production are taken up. Glushkov, the combine director, is indifferent to the needs of production.

The party is also open to criticisms, although the recently chosen party bureau has taken the first steps toward improvement. For months, the Segezhskiy Rayon Party Committee secretaries have not visited this enterprise, which is the largest in the rayon.

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